

6. OLDER ADULTS FUNDING REPORT 2003-2004

Officer responsible
Community and Recreation Manager

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the outcomes of the Older Adults funding grants that were distributed to community groups and organisations in the Spreydon/Heathcote community during the 2003-2004 financial year.

SUMMARY OF PROCESS

Community Board Project Funds provided \$6,000 to support/enhance existing programmes for older adults in the Spreydon/Heathcote community during the 2003-2004 financial year. Letters were sent to a database of over 80 local providers requesting that they apply for funding for a specific project involving older adults in leisure activities. Distributing funding in this way is an efficient way to assist numerous local community groups which work with older adults and to reach a large number of local older residents. Criteria for funding were based on recent older adults research and parameters the Board agreed upon in a previous year. These were:

- Projects which target older adults with the least access to recreation and arts opportunities (i.e. living alone, lack of transport, low income)
- Projects which target older adults in the Barrington and Spreydon Communities
- Projects to develop or continue gentle exercise classes

Recipients of funding were:

Beckenham Friendship Club	\$350
Rowley Resource Centre	\$1,725
Sacred Heart (Addington) Friendship Group	\$350
St. Martins Friendship Club	\$350
Special Needs Toy Library	\$45
Whareora Trust	\$350
Salvation Army, Sydenham	\$1,625
Beckenham Catholic Women's League	\$300
Aotea Combined Probus Club	\$350
Landsdowne Combined Probus Club	\$330
Waltham Cottage	\$225
TOTAL:	\$6,000

Beckenham Friendship Club

Social afternoons organised by this club have approximately 60 people attending, many of whom do not regularly attend other activities in the community. The entertainment for these afternoons (eg musical groups, pianists) was subsidised by the funding provided. Each month this group organises three activities – the social afternoon, a bus trip that caters for 30-35 people, and a popular Housie afternoon. In addition, there are bi-annual dinners catering for 85 people. Attendances at social afternoons: 600.

Rowley Resource Centre – Exercise classes

Classes in gentle exercise continue to be held once or twice a week at the Rowley Resource Centre. The classes are taken by a qualified tutor and attract regular customers from the local area. Funding: \$525. Attendance: 350.

Rowley Resource Centre – Craft classes

Chocolate making and card making are activities that a local tutor has shared at the Rowley Resource Centre and the new Rowley House. A volunteer undertook tutoring to enable her to learn some new skills to be able to tutor members of the local community in paper tole work. Funding: \$725. Attendance: 170.

Rowley Resource Centre – Older Adults Event

The move to new premises has delayed the planned staging of an older adults' event at the new Rowley House facility. Unspent funding of \$475 remains with Rowley Resource Centre to enable them to organise this activity for local residents in the coming spring.

Sacred Heart Friendship Group

This group was assisted with the costs of providing entertainment at the regular monthly meetings. Older adults of any denomination are welcome to attend the Friendship Group's shared luncheon and the entertainment that follows. Between 20 and 25 people attend each month. Attendance: 264.

St. Martins Friendship Group

Entertainment costs for regular weekly meetings were subsidised by the funding provided to this group. The group meets weekly and members range in age from 60 to over 90 years, with an average of 30 people attending each meeting. Attendance: 608.

Special Needs Toy Library

A therapeutic game for older adults with very limited mobility was purchased with the funding provided to this organisation, based in Huxley Street. Local nursing homes and retirement villages, as well as families of older adults, have been making use of this equipment. Usage of the equipment is estimated to be at 100 people.

Whareora Trust

The Friendship group at Whareora Trust caters for older adults who are largely socially isolated and on low incomes. The funding provided enabled the group to go on a variety of outings by subsidising the costs involved. Eight monthly mini-bus outings were enjoyed by between six and fourteen people. Attendance: 64.

Salvation Army, Sydenham – Concerts

Two concerts for local older adults were organised by the Companion Club and advertised via mail drop in the local area. Admission was free, and afternoon tea was provided. The shows proved very popular and catered for people in wheelchairs, walking frames, and a number of very elderly (90 years plus) members of the community. Those with Alzheimer's disease and other medical conditions were also catered for. The combined cost of the concerts was \$1,420. Funding: \$600. Attendance: 288.

Salvation Army, Sydenham – Bus Trips

Three bus trips were organised by members of the Home League. These took older adults in the community, many of whom do not drive and would not normally be able to enjoy such experiences, for half-day outings. Funding: \$1,025. Attendance: 103.

Beckenham Catholic Women's League

Two bus trips were organised by this group and subsidised by the funding provided to this group. The group travelled to destinations outside Christchurch, which enabled older members to enjoy an excursion they normally would not be able to experience. Attendance: 90.

Aotea Combined Probus Club

Members who are house-bound were assisted by this grant, which helped to fund travel expenses, mostly taxi costs. This enabled them to continue to attend meetings despite being unable to drive or access public transport. Assistance was given to between 12 and 14 people each month.

Landsdowne Combined Probus Club

Funding enabled this group to subsidise two bus trips to destinations outside Christchurch. This enabled members to enjoy an experience that many of them would be unable to do without assistance. Attendance: 90.

Waltham Cottage

The "Golden Oldies" group organised a guided trip in a mini-bus to Lyttelton harbour and places of interest within Christchurch City. The group had a fabulous time, with one member stating that: *"I saw more of Christchurch than I had in 83 years"*. Attendance: 14.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received